

BRITAIN'S
GREATEST HERO!

JACK STAFF

★ ★ INTRODUCING ★ ★
CHARLIE RAVEN
THE GREATEST
ESCAPOLOGIST OF THE
VICTORIAN AGE!

AND ALSO FEATURING

**BECKY
BURDOCK**
VAMPIRE
REPORTER

2
Q

AN EAGLE AWARD
WINNING COMIC BY
PAUL GRIST

£1.80
\$2.95 US



9
JUN



ORANGE, CA -- May 31, 2002 -- Image Publisher & VP Jim Valentino announced Friday at the Comics 2002 Festival in Bristol, England, that Paul Grist's black and white independent series Jack Staff is moving to Image. According to Valentino, the title will be relaunched in January 2003 as a new ongoing series -- in full colour.



FLAG WAVING

Yes, it's all true! I'm probably going to get quite a few questions about this over the next few months, so in order to save having to repeat myself too much, now is probably a good time to deal with some of the more obvious ones.

Why Image? It makes sense to me. Whilst Jack Staff is doing better sales wise than I managed with Kane, there's still a vast number of people who haven't heard of the comic, let alone seen it. Hopefully the bigger promotional push I'll get from coming out through Image will increase my visibility no end. The colour will be nice too! And for those of you who want to know, it was Image that asked.

What about my subscription? Business as usual. Any subscriptions beyond issue 12 will get the new Image series until their subscription runs out. I'll still be offering subscriptions and back issues, but to be honest, because I'll have to wait until I get copies sent from the US before I send them out (and the - hopefully - increased availability in the comic shops) you might prefer to get copies from your local comic shop.

Who's doing the colouring? Phil Elliott. For those of you unfamiliar with Phil's work, you might want to check out our previous collaborative efforts, now handily collected under one cover - *Absent Friends*. See the advert on the inside back cover for full details! Check out some sample colour pages at <http://www.weisshahn.de/kane/index.html>.

How does this affect Kane? I've had to push back my plans for Kane for the moment. I need to get ahead on Jack Staff so that has to be the main focus for the next few months. I will not now be releasing Kane book 5, but instead I'm waiting until the new year when I can take advantage of extra publicity from Jack Staff, and hopefully bring in some new readers in that way! I haven't yet decided if that will be through Image or Dancing Elephant. A lot of this is just wait and see at the moment.

Does this mean you're giving up self-publishing? No! What it does mean is that starting next year I'm finally going to be in a position where I'll be able to publish something I've been wanting to do for a long time now - it's taken me ten years to get there, but starting in March 2003, Burglar Bill.

And there're still three more issues of Jack Staff to go yet!

BACK ISSUES

2 to 7 only - sorry, issue 1 sold out.
\$2.95 US £1.80 UK £2.50 Europe
Prices per single copy. US orders please add \$1.50 US to the total to cover postage. All cheques payable to Paul Grist.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

6 issues. Please say which issue you want your subscription to begin with,
\$24.00 US £10.80 UK £15.00 Europe.
Prices include postage. All cheques payable to Paul Grist.

ORIGINAL ART FOR SALE

Single pages of the original black and white art for Jack Staff are available at £50 UK, \$85 US each. Prices include postage. Please list alternatives in case your original choice has gone, or contact me via e-mail if you want to check and/or reserve a page. All cheques payable to Paul Grist.

NOW OUT

Jack Staff book 1: Yesterday's Heroes, collecting Jack Staff issues 1 to 4.
\$15.95 US £8.95 UK.

Dancing Elephant Press
P.O. Box 104
HIGHBRIDGE
TA9 4WD
ENGLAND

Danceleph@aol.com

CHOICES.
HERE'S AN EASY ONE.

RING RING

DO YOU ANSWER THE PHONE
OR JUST LET IT RING?

RING RING

GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS?

RING RING

WRONG NUMBER?

RING RING

LONG LOST FRIEND?

RING RING

DOUBLE GLAZING COMPANY?

RING RING

WHAT DO YOU DO?

RING RING

ANSWER THE PHONE
OR JUST LET IT RING?

RING RING

YOUR CHOICE.

RING RING





IN CELEBRATION OF
HER ROYAL MAJESTY'S
GOLDEN JUBILEE,
THE MASTER CARTOONIST
MR. PAUL GRIST
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
★ **DANCING** ★
ELEPHANT PRESS
IS PROUD TO BE ABLE TO
PRESENT FOR YOUR
DELIGHT AND EDIFICATION
THE **EXPLOITS** OF THE
GREATEST ESCAPOLOGIST
OF THE **VICTORIAN AGE!**

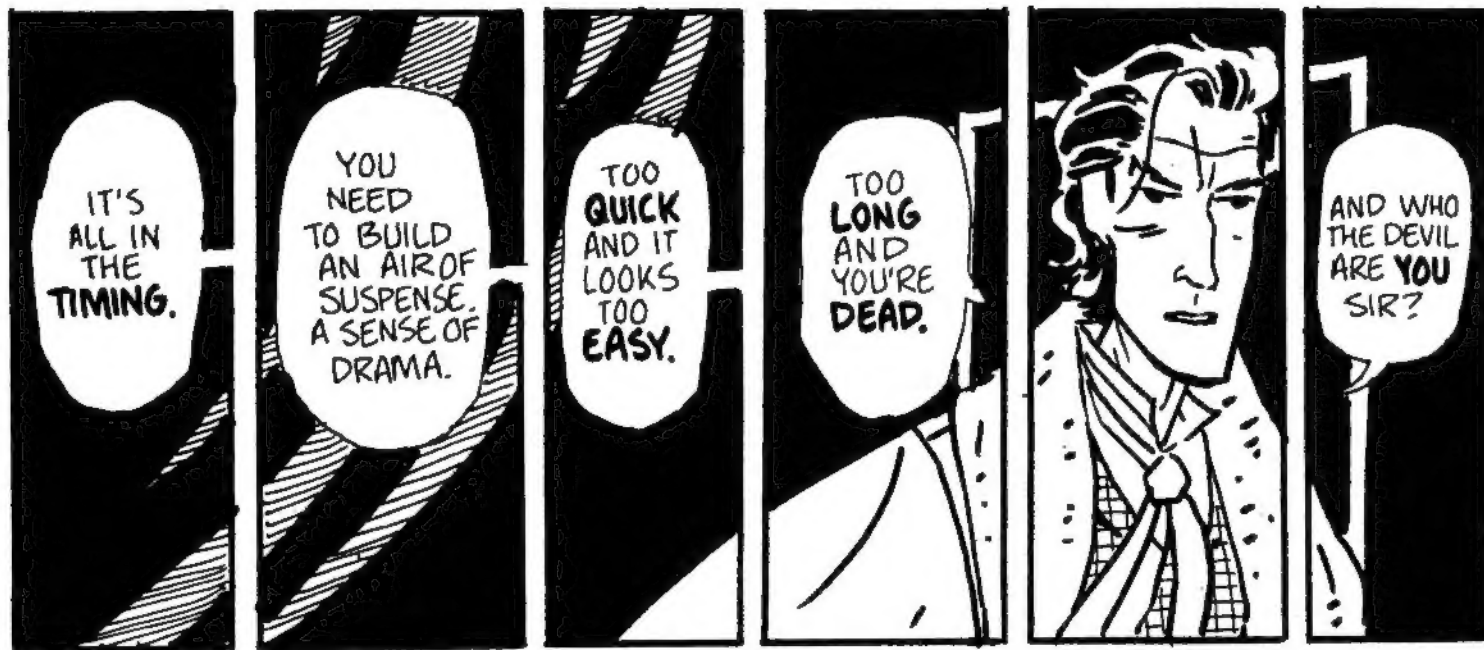
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
INTRODUCING
THE ONE, THE ONLY,
THE **INCOMPARABLE**

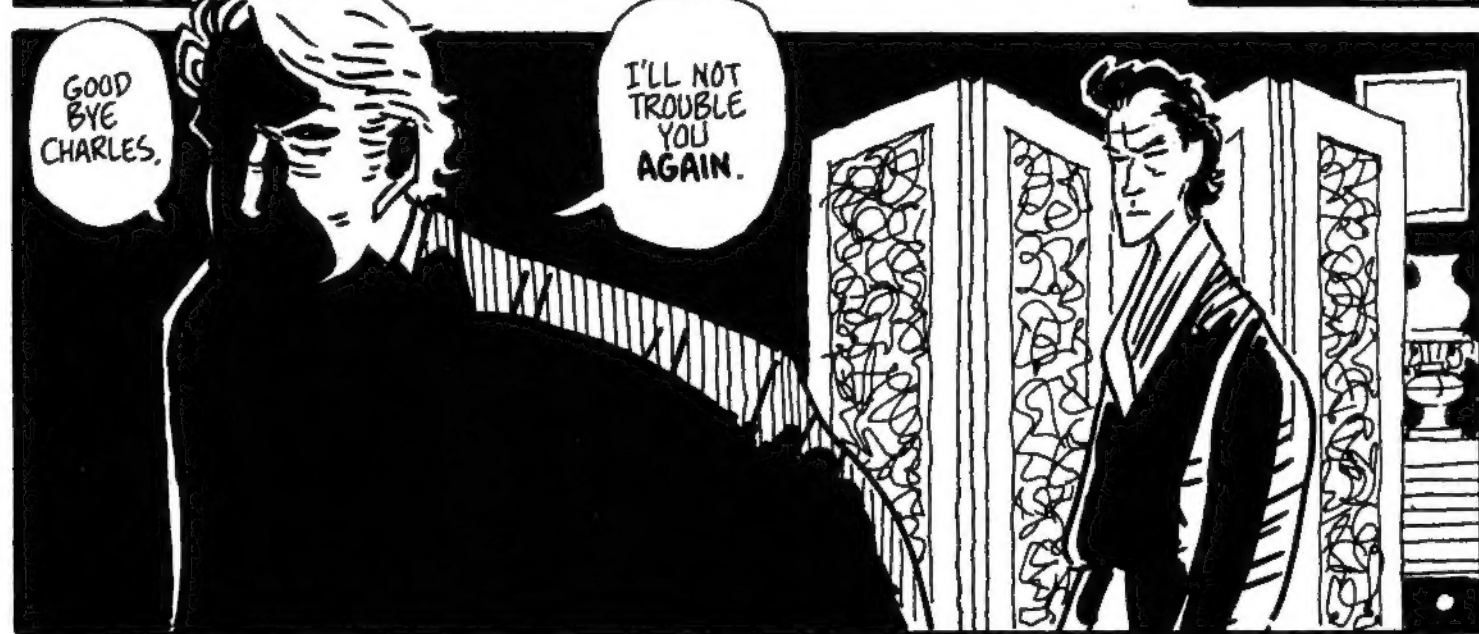
CHARLIE
RAVEN

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

SHACKLED HAND AND FOOT! WEIGHED DOWN BY UNBREAKABLE CHAINS!
SEALED INSIDE A VAT OF ICE COLD WATER! HAS THE MASTER ESCAPE ARTIST
FINALLY BEEN CAUGHT IN THE INESCAPABLE TRAP OR WILL HE FLY FREE--









AH-
MISTER
CARLSON.

AND HOW
DID YOU
FIND THE
SHOW?



I
THOUGHT
IT A MOST
ENTERTAINING
DIVERSION.

NO!

AND
DID YOU
SEE
MISTER
RAVEN?

NO!
I WON'T
DO IT!

NO
MATTER
WHAT
I OWE
YOU.



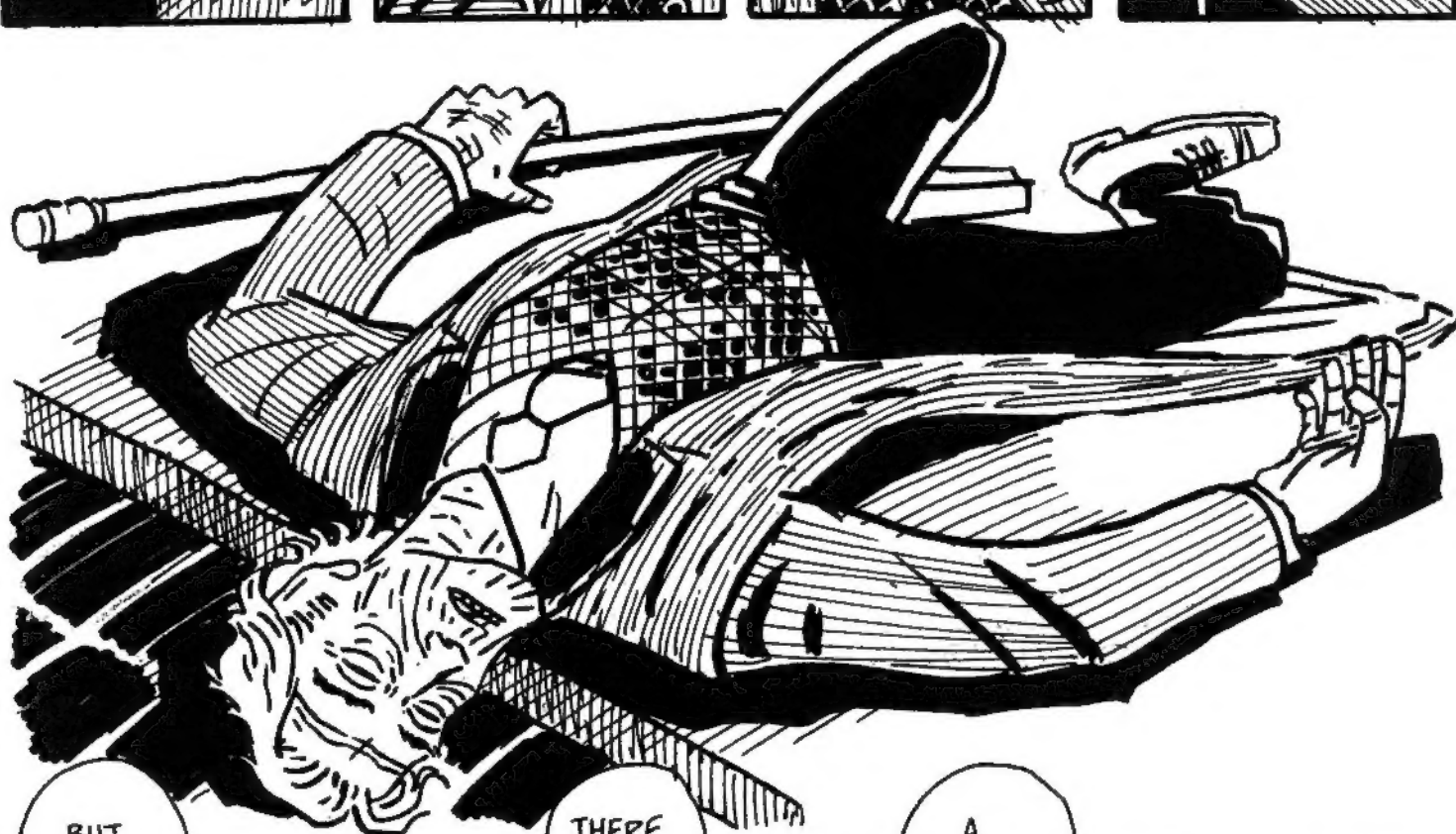
I HAVE
DONE
MANY
SHAME
FULL
THINGS
IN MY
LIFE
...

BUT
I'LL NOT
BETRAY
A FRIEND.

THIS
TIME I
WON'T
LET YOU
DO THAT
TO ME!



SO SAD
THEN, THAT
YOU HAVE
SO **LITTLE**
TIME
LEFT.



BUT
DON'T
WORRY
MISTER
CARLSON
...

THERE
IS ONE
FINAL
SERVICE
YOU CAN
DO FOR
ME.



A
MESSAGE
TO PASS
ON.



RING RING

The Great
British Builder.

Ever wonder why you
can never get hold of
one when you really
need one?

Or why they're late to
start, early to finish,
and then just disappear
in the middle of the day?

Maybe it's because
they're SUPER-HEROES.

That's HIS excuse.

JACK STAFF

John Smith.

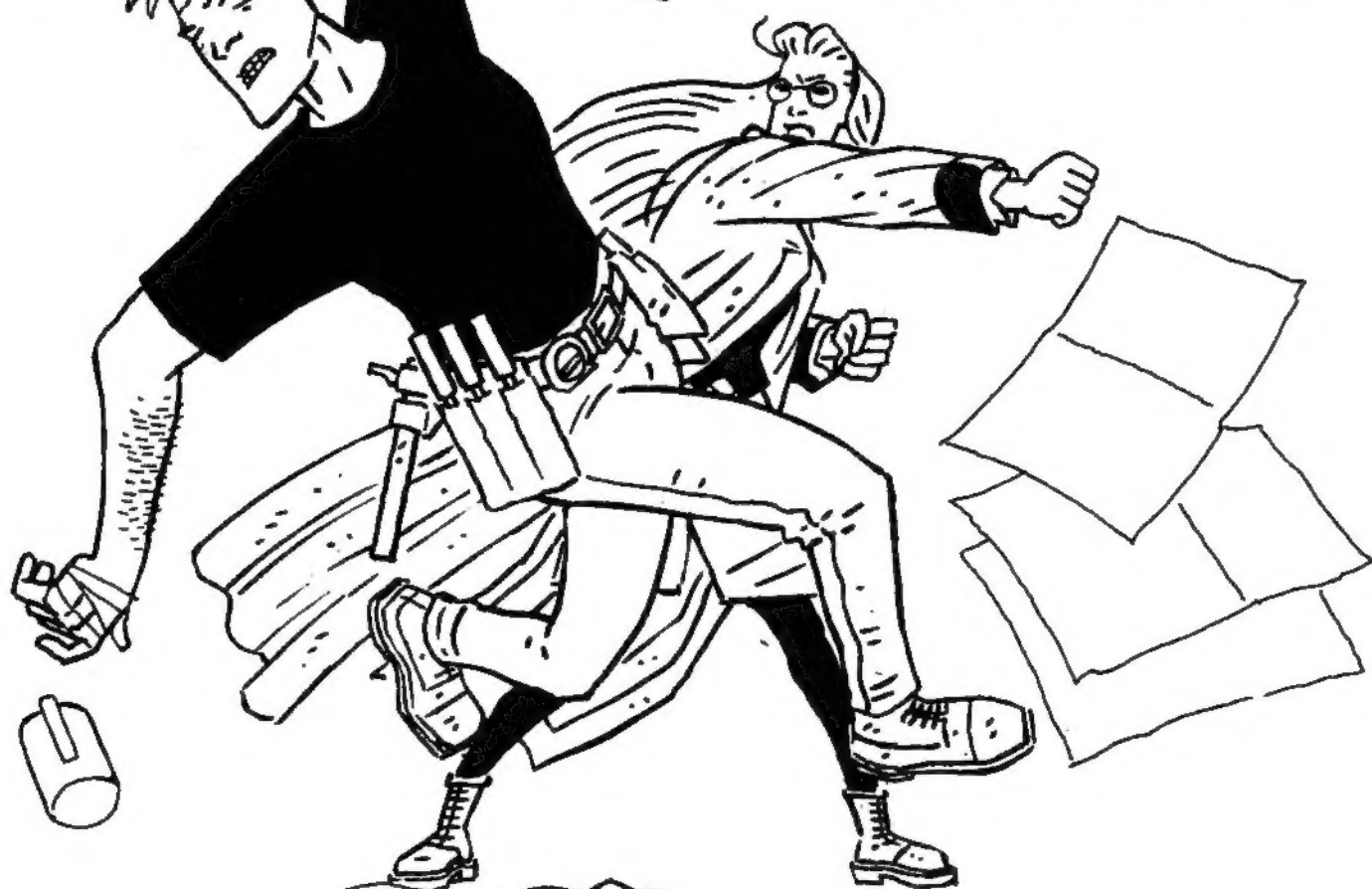
Britain's Greatest
Hero.

Ten past nine and
he's already on a
tea-break.

HEY!

BECKY
BURDOCK
VAMPIRE REPORTER







WHAT?



WHAT KIND OF **HERO** ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?

I HAD MY OWN PROBLEMS Y'KNOW?

I SPENT MOST OF THAT NIGHT LOCKED UP IN A **POLICE CELL!**

I'M NOT **SUPRISED** AFTER YOUR LITTLE PHONE CALL YESTERDAY.

OR WAS THAT YOUR WAY OF SAYING **SORRY?**

SORRY?

THE ONLY THING I'M SORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW IS THAT I BOTHERED TO **SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

I CALLED YOU FOR **HELP** AND YOU JUST HUNG UP ON ME!

IS **THAT** WHAT **THIS** IS ABOUT?

HEY JOHN!

LOOK AT THIS!

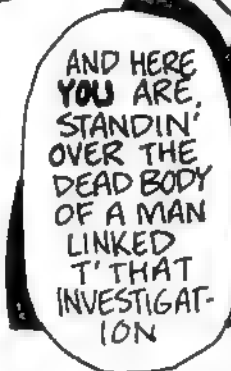


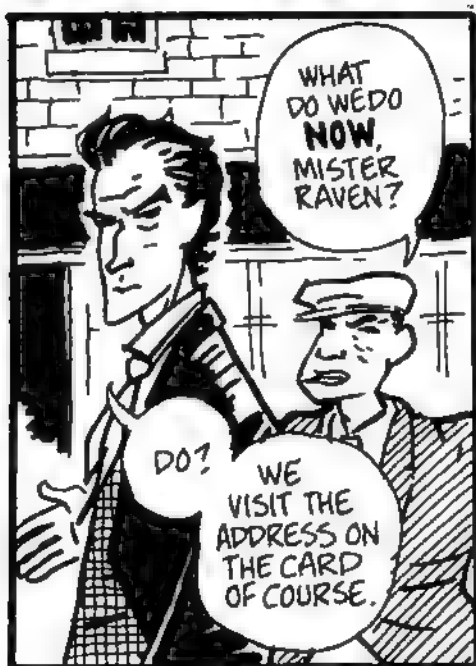
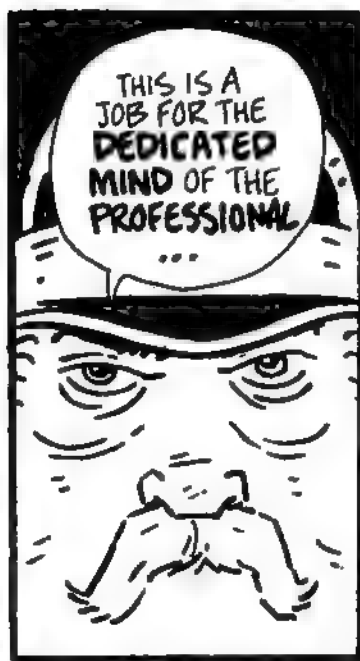
WHAT IS IT?

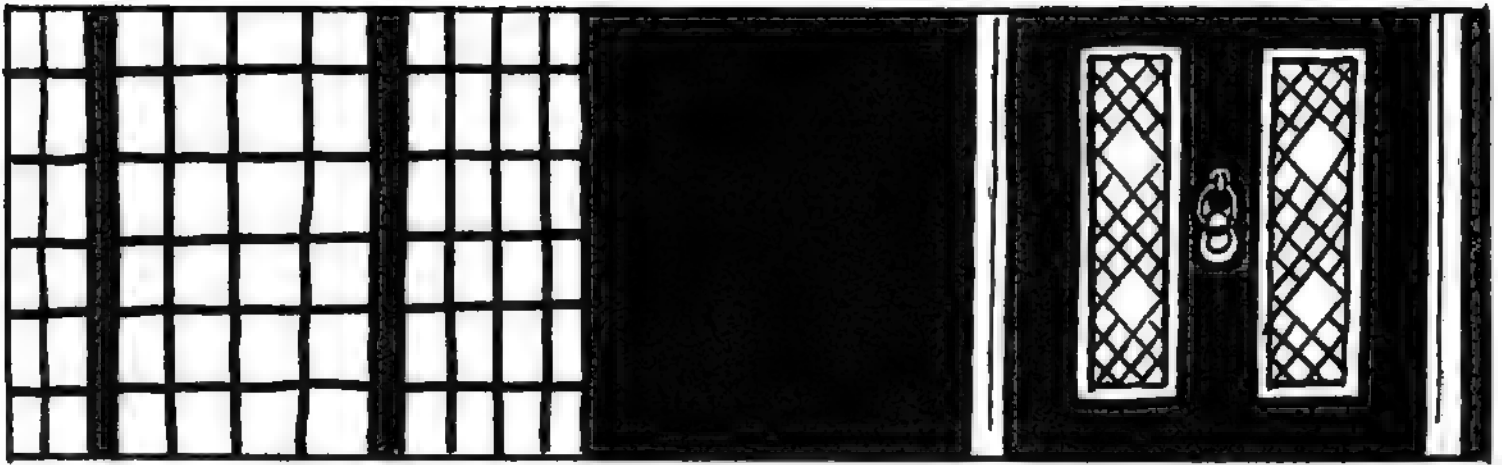
LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF **COFFIN** ...

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT IT BOSS?

RING RING







CHARLIE RAVEN HAS SEEN MANY THINGS. THINGS THAT A LESSER MAN WOULD TURN HIS EYES AWAY FROM. THERE IS LITTLE THAT CAN **SUPRISE** HIM, STILL LESS THAT CAN **SHOCK**. BUT EVEN **CHARLIE RAVEN** MUST PAUSE AS HE ENTERS THIS HOUSE. HE IS UNPREPARED FOR THE **SIGHTS** AND **SOUNDS** THAT ASSAIL HIS **SENSES**. OR THE **COSH** THAT CRACKS AGAINST THE BACK OF HIS HEAD!





ELSEWHERE.

BEN KULMER INVESTIGATES
QUESTION MARK CRIMES

IT'S OVER TWELVE MONTHS
SINCE HE WAS 'RECRUITED.'

GOOD
NIGHT
BEN

YEAH,
SEE
YOU
WILBUR

IF HE'S LEARNT ANYTHING
IN THE LAST YEAR IT'S **THIS**:

WHEN YOU WALK THE
BORDERS OF **REALITY**
AND **UNREALITY**

TREAD CAREFULLY.

MISS YOUR STEP AND
YOU COULD FIND YOUR-
SELF **FALLING**.

AND YOU MIGHT NEVER
FIND YOUR WAY **UP** AGAIN.

HEY!
JUST
WATCH
IT PAL
...

I
COULD
HAVE
YOU!

I KNOW
PEOPLE.
IMPORTANT
PEOPLE.

YEAH
YEAH
...

SURE
YOU
DO.

I'M
CONSTANTLY
SUPRISED
AT THE
NUMBER OF
CLOSE
PERSONAL
FRIENDS
THE CHIEF
CONSTABLE
HAS.

BEN KULMER LIVES HIS
LIFE IN THE **SHADOWS**

I SAID
DON'T
TOUCH
ME!

YOU
DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU'RE
DEALING
WITH
COPPER!!

KEEP OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT.

I'M
DEALING
WITH A
DRUNK
AND
DISORD-
ERLY

WHO'D BE
KEEPING
HIS MOUTH
SHUT
IF HE HAD
ANY
SENSE.

YOU
UNDER
STAND
ME?

huh
...

DON'T GET INVOLVED IN
WHAT ISN'T YOUR BUSINESS.

SO WHAT NOW?

NOW
COME
ON--

I DON'T
WANT ANY
TROUBLE
FROM YOU,
OKAY?

GO HOME.

KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.
KEEP ON WALKING.

I SAID
**DON'T
TOUCH
ME!**

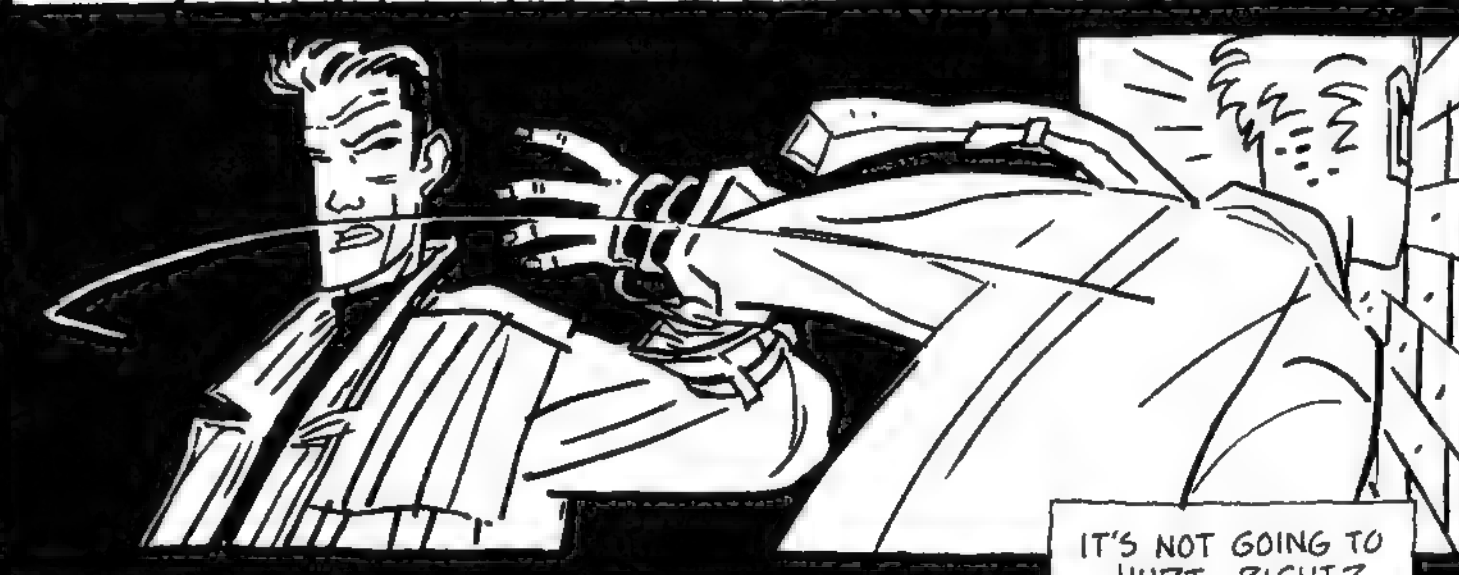


huh?

AH, WHAT THE HELL.



IT'S NOT GOING TO
HURT, RIGHT?



RIGHT?

HEY!

WAIT--
I KNOW
YOU
DON'T I?

KARL
ISN'T
IT?

A HESITATION.

BEN KULMER
MISSES A STEP...

AND STUMBLES.

uh.

YOU
GOT THE
WRONG
GUY,
PAL...

DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

oh
YEAH
RIGHT.

GET
IN AND
SHUT
UP!

HE QUICKLY TURNS
AND WALKS AWAY.

THANKS
KULMER.

BUT IT'S ALREADY
TOO LATE.

MY
MISTAKE
...

I NEVER
SAW
YOU.

BEN KULMER
IS **FALLING**

AND HE DOESN'T KNOW
HOW LONG HE'S GOT
BEFORE HE HITS THE
GROUND.

RING RING



WHAT
DID YOU
DO TO
HIM YOU
FIEND?



WHO?
YOUR
MONKEY?

I TOOK
HIS TIME.
I'M SURE
I'LL MAKE
BETTER USE
OF IT THAN
HE EVER
WOULD.



DON'T
PRETEND
THAT YOU
REALLY
CARED.



YOU
AND I
ARE TOO
MUCH
ALIKE
MISTER
RAVEN.

WE ARE
AS DIFFERENT
FROM THEM
AS THEY ARE
FROM THEIR
APE GRAND
PARENTS.

THEIR
LIVES ARE
UNIMPORTANT
TO US.

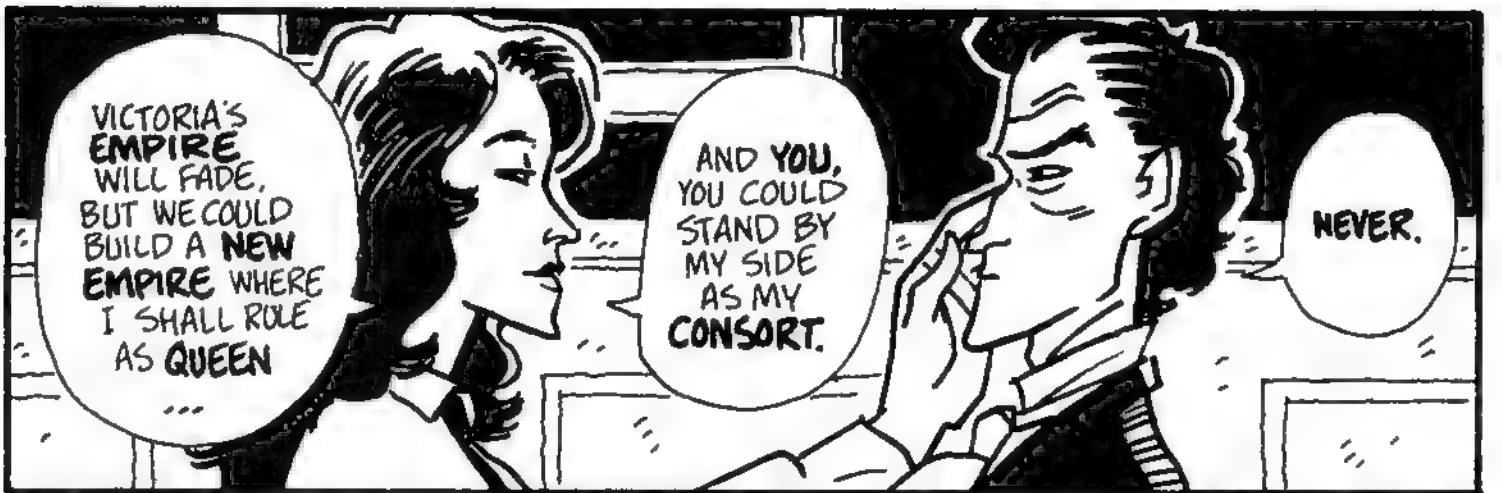


EVEN
THE MOST
INSIGNIF-
-ICANT
LIFE HAS
VALUE.

oh
SPARE
ME!

YOU
CALL YOUR
SELF THE
GREATEST
ESCAPOLIST
OF THE
VICTORIAN
AGE

BUT
YOU'RE
STILL A
PRISONER
OF IT'S
PETTY
VALUES.



VICTORIA'S
EMPIRE
WILL FADE,
BUT WE COULD
BUILD A NEW
EMPIRE WHERE
I SHALL RULE
AS QUEEN

AND YOU,
YOU COULD
STAND BY
MY SIDE
AS MY
CONSORT.

NEVER.



I WILL
NOT
BE BOUND

BY
MAN OR
WOMAN.

KERCHINK



CHARLIE
RAVEN
WILL BE
FREE!



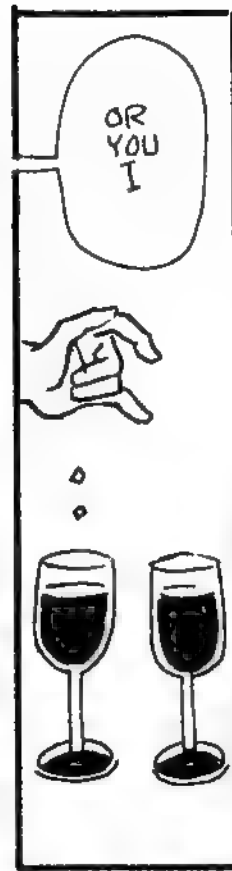
oh
BRAVO
MISTER
RAVEN!

WELL
DONE
SIR.

CLAP
CLAP



STRANGE
YOU COULDN'T
MANAGE IT
TWO MINUTES
EARLIER TO
SAVE THE
MONKEY.





THE NATIVES
USE IT TO
PARALYSE
THEIR PREY
WHEN
HUNTING.



IT'S VERY
FAST
ACTING,
AS I'M SURE
YOU WILL
HAVE
REALISED.



THE POWDER
I EMPTIED
INTO THE
GLASS WAS
NOT **POISON**
BUT A
NEUTRALISING
AGENT.



WHAT A DELICIOUS
FOLLY! THE **GREATEST**
ESCAPOLOGIST OF THE
VICTORIAN AGE
IS FINALLY CAUGHT,
IMPRISONED INSIDE
THE ONE TRAP YOU
CAN **NEVER** ESCAPE

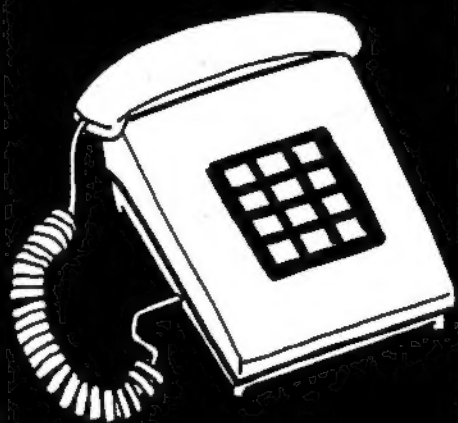
YOURSELF!



RING RING

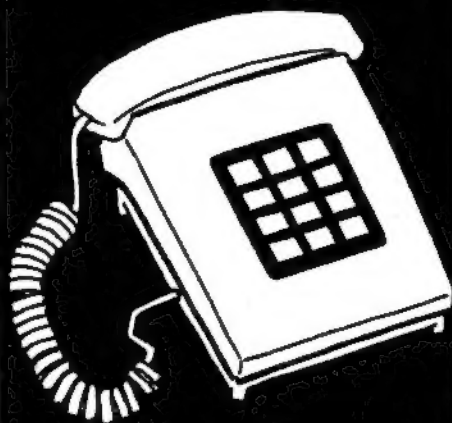
RING RING

SO, WHAT DO YOU DO?

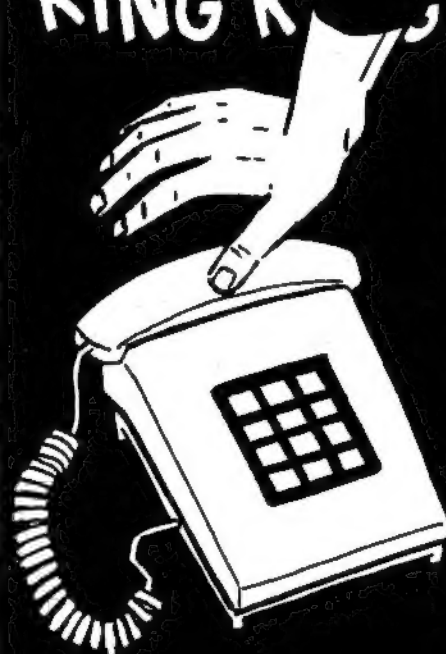


RING RING

ANSWER THE PHONE
OR JUST LET IT RING?



RING R



YES?

JUST REMEMBER.

WHATEVER **ELSE**
HAPPENS.

REMEMBER.

WHEN YOUR WORLD
GOES **CRAZY** AND
YOU CAN'T TELL
UP FROM **DOWN**,

REMEMBER.

WHEN YOU LIE
AWAKE AT **TWO**
IN THE MORNING
TRYING TO FIGURE
OUT HOW THINGS
GOT **SO** BAD,

REMEMBER.

YOU **HAD** A **CHOICE**.



NEXT ISSUE



ABSENT FRIENDS



A collection of short comic strips written by Phil Elliott and illustrated by Paul Grist

40 pages

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CAPTION 2002

RING RING

